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LATENT FINGERPRINTS PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 29-January-2004

7 ARDROX

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Ardrox P133D is an industrial penetrant manufactured by Ardrox, Limited, of Canada, as 970-P10, and available in the United States from Radiatronics, Incorporated, of Overland Park, Kansas. The stain was developed to detect small fractures in construction materials and possesses certain properties that can be successfully utilized in latent print processing. Ardrox P133D readily penetrates and remains in minute openings, yet is easily rinsed from surrounding surfaces, and is highly luminescent with long wave, ultra violet light excitation.

Ardrox P133D staining was developed as a means of enhancing cyanoacrylate ester polymerized impressions. The properties of Ardrox are highly complementary to the cyanoacrylate ester process, and may yield results that equal or surpass those of the Rhodamine 6G procedure. However, instances have occurred when Rhodamine 6G revealed impressions that were not stained by Ardrox P133D with UV excitation. This lack of consistency currently delegates Ardrox P133D as an additional processing technique, not as a replacement for dye and laser examination.

Ardrox P133D is also luminescent with blue laser or 470 nm xenon arc illumination. However, since the two procedures are compatible, use of Ardrox staining as an additional technique to be utilized in conjunction with the laser dyes, whenever possible, is recommended.

7.2 PREPARATIONS

Ardrox is commercially available. No preparation is needed..

7.3 INSTRUMENTATION

High Intensity Ultra Violet Light Source. Alternate Light Source Laser

Items treated with the Ardrox solution can be examined with any long wave UV light source, or with blue light of laser or alternate light origin. In most cases, UV illumination is preferable to laser or xenon arc excitation, particularly to facilitate photography. Low wattage black light bulbs are available that fit standard fluorescent light desk lamps and provide adequate illumination for Ardrox luminescence. These bulbs also create a large area of light with even output. High intensity UV sources, such as 100 watt mercury vapor lights, offer a higher degree of illumination that can be directed and may provide the best source of illumination for increased luminescence.

Proper safety precautions including avoiding skin exposure and proper eye protection with appropriate optical densities should be utilized when operating ultraviolet light sources, lasers or alternate light sources. Consult the appropriate users manuals for the safe use and appropriate eye protection for the specific piece of equipment being utilized.

7.4 MINIMUM STANDARDS AND CONTROLS

Dye stains, such as Ardrox, work by discoloring latent impressions developed with cyanoacrylate ester. Due to their inherent ability to stain and discolor the ridge detail, there is no need for test impressions to be done prior to evidence application.

7.5 PROCEDURE OR ANALYSIS

All applications should be done in a fume hood

- 7.5.1 Undiluted Ardrox application
 - 1. Completely cover the item to be processed with undiluted Ardrox by immersion or by squirt bottle.

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- 2. Allow the liquid to remain on the item for about ten minutes.
- 3. Rinse the item under tap water until no yellow color remains.
- 4. Allow the item to dry and examine with the appropriate light source.
- 5. Photograph any impressions observed using appropriate film and filters.

7.5.2 Ardrox methanol, and isopropanol formulas-application

- 1. Apply the solution to the item to be processed by immersion or squirt bottle.
- 2. Allow the solution to remain on the item for several minutes to insure proper adherence of the Ardrox to the cyanoacrylate developed impressions.
- 3. Examine the item using the appropriate light source without rinsing to determine if background staining has occurred. If not, proceed to step 5.
- 4. If background staining is observed and prevents adequate photographic preservation expose the item to a light tap water rinse.
- 5. Allow the item to dry completely and examine with the appropriate light source.
- 6. Have any impressions photographed.

7.6 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

As with laser dye visualized impressions, Ardrox P133D developed latents usually appear as light impressions on dark backgrounds that must be preserved photographically.

7.7 REFERENCES

- 1. Lennard, Christopher J.; Pierre A. Margot. "Sequencing of Reagents for the Improved Visualization of Latent Fingerprints"; *Journal of Forensic Identification*, September/October 1988, 38, 5, 197-210.
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- 3. McCarthy, Mary M. "Evaluation of Ardrox as a Luminescent Stain for Cyanoacrylate Processed Latent Impressions"; *Journal of Forensic Identification*, 1990, 40, 2, 75-80.
- 4. Murbarger, Melissa, Lisa Zaccagnini, Substitute for Freon-Ardrox Formula. Illinois State Police Internal Publication, 1997.
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